

REMARKS

Applicants have amended claim 1 to better describe the present invention. Support for the amendment can be found on page 2, line 20. Consequently, claims 2 and 7 have been amended to be consistent with the presently claimed embodiments of the present invention. Claims 19-20 are canceled.

No new matter is submitted. Entry is believed to be proper and respectfully requested.

Upon entry of the amendments, Claims 1-2 and 5-18 are pending.

Rejection under 35 USC 102 over Berndt et al.

Claims 1, 2, 5-16 and 18-20 are rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by US 6,063,135 to Berndt et al. (hereinafter referred to as "Berndt") for reasons stated on page 2-3 of the Office Action.

It is submitted that Berndt teaches vacuum distillation as the method for purifying contaminated siloxane solvent (Berndt, col. 9, lines 21-50). In contrast, the presently claimed process does not contain a distillation step. Therefore, Berndt does not anticipate the presently claimed invention.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

Rejection under 35 USC 102 over Murphy

Claims 1, 2, 5-7, 9-13 and 18-20 are rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by US 6,313,079 to Murphy for reasons stated on page 3-4 of the Office Action.

Murphy (Col. 4, lines 56-67) incorporates Hagiwara's dry cleaning apparatus (as disclosed in US 4,712,392, hereinafter referred to as "Hagiwara"). In Hagiwara's apparatus, a combination of filter and distillation are employed in the process to recover the solvent (Col. 4, lines 13-38). In contrast, the presently claimed process does not contain any distillation step. Therefore, Murphy, with Hagiwara incorporated therein, does not anticipate the presently claimed invention.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

Rejection under 35 USC 103 over Kilgour et al. in view of Hagiwara

Claims 1-2 and 5-20 are rejected under 35 USC 103 as being unpatentable over US 6,310.029 to Kilgour et al. (hereinafter referred to as "Kilgour") in view of Hagiwara for the reasons stated on page 4-5 of the Office Action.

Based on the discussion above, it is clear that the Hagiwara methods do not teach or suggest the presently claimed process that does not contain a distillation step. Therefore, it is submitted that subjecting Kilgour's compositions to Hagiwara apparatus and methods also fails to teach or suggest the presently claimed non-distillative process. Thus, the combination of Kilgour/Hagiwara does not render the presently claimed invention obvious.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

Rejection under 35 USC 103 over Kilgour et al. in view of Durr

Claims 1-2 and 5-20 are rejected under 35 USC 103 as being unpatentable over Kilgour in view of US 3,692,467 to Durr et al. (hereinafter referred to as "Durr") for the reasons stated on page 5-6 of the Office Action.

Kilgour teaches a composition comprising cyclic siloxanes useful in dry cleaning applications, but Kilgour is silent about solvent recovery or solvent separation. Durr teaches separation of a halogenated hydrocarbon and water, and Durr is silent about separation of water and other type of dry cleaning solvents, such as siloxanes solvents. There is no motivation in the references to apply a method directed to the separation of a very specific type of solvent from water to the separation of a different type of solvent from water. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that this rejection is based on improper hindsight reconstruction to arrive at the presently claimed invention.

Even if the cited references were combined, the multi-step process taught by Durr employs a still (43) and a condenser (44). In contrast, the presently claimed process does not contain any distillation step. Therefore, the combination of Kilgour/Durr does not render the presently claimed invention obvious.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

Page 7 of 7

CONCLUSION

Applicant believes the present amendment is fully responsive and places Claims 1-2 and 5-18 are in condition for allowance.

In the event that issues remain prior to allowance of the noted claims, the Examiner is invited to call Applicant's undersigned attorney to discuss any remaining issues.

Respectfully submitted,
For: Deak et al.

Caroline Wei-Berk

Caroline Wei-Berk
Reg. No. 45,203
(513) 627-0352

May 18, 2005
Customer No. 27752